

Message Text

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64

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SP-02 AID-05 EB-07 NSC-05 CIEP-01

TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-04 OMB-01 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

FRB-03 INR-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 XMB-02 OPIC-03 LAB-04

SIL-01 L-03 PA-01 PRS-01 AGR-05 FEA-01 IO-10 H-02

/100 W

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R 280935Z AUG 75

FM AMEMBASSY MANILA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7002

INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

AEMBASSY JAKARTA 4845

AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR

AMEMBASSY RANGOON

AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

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E. O. 11652: NA

TAGS: ASEAN, RP, US

SUBJECT: US/ASEAN CONSULTATIONS

REF: (A) MANILA 11862: (B) STATE 199864

1. AS INDICATED REF A ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR CALLED ON ASST SECRETARY BARRERA, AUG. 28 TO DISCUSS ASEAN/US CONSULTATIONS ALONG LINES REF ?. AT BARRERA'S REQUEST TALKING PAPER LATER PROVIDED TO HIM, DRAWING ON MAIN POINTS REF B, PARA 4 EXCLUDED. BARRERA REPORTED THAT ASEAN SECRETARIES GENERAL NOW MEETING IN MANILA WOULD CONSIDER ASEAN/US TALKS DURING AUG 29 MEETING, AND THAT SEC GEN RECOMMENDATION WOULD BE REFERRED TO THE STANDING COMMITTEE WHICH MEETS MANILA ON SEPT. 4. IT WAS CONCLUDED THAT MORE DETAILED DISCUSSION OF AGENDA AND OTHER PREPARATIONS FOR CONSULTATIONS SHOULD BE DEFERRED UNTIL AFTER SEPT 4 MEETING.

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2. INVIEW OF PROBABILITY THAT BARRERA WILL SHARE OUR TALKING PAPER WITH ASEAN DELS TO SEC GEN MEETING, TEXT IS PROVIDED IN FULL BELOW:

QUOTE IN VIEW OF A NUMBER OF SUGGESTIONS RECENTLY RECEIVED BY U.S. MISSIONS IN ASEAN CAPITALS, U.S. WISHES TO INDICATE ITS CONTINUING INTEREST IN ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS WITH ASEAN.

WE ARE APPROACHING PHILIPPINES TO REITERATE THIS INTEREST IN VIEW OF FACT THAT THE CURRENT CHAIRMAN OF THE ASEAN STANDING COMMITTEE IS GENERAL ROMULO. WE UNDERSTAND HE WILL CONTINUE AS CHAIRMAN UNTIL MAY 1976.

THE U.S. WOULD VIEW CONSULTATIONS WITH ASEAN AS AN OPPORTUNITY TO DISCUSS MAJOR ECONOMIC QUESTIONS OF MUTUAL INTEREST, E. G., DEVELOPMENTS AND CURRENT THINKING ON THE MTN TALKS, ECONOMIC TRENDS, INVESTMENT AND TRADE MATTERS. THE AGENDA, OF COURSE, WOULD BE MUTUALLY AGREED.

WE WOULD ASSUME THAT SUCH CONSULTATIONS WOULD BE HELD IN AN ASEAN CAPITAL AT A MUTUALLY CONVENIENT TIME. U.S. INTENT WOULD BE TO HAVE U.S. DELEGATION HEADED BY UNDER SECRETARY ROBINSON (UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ECONOMIC AFFAIRS) AND WOULD ASSUME ASEAN REPRESENTATION AT COMPARABLE LEVELS.

IT IS U.S. UNDERSTANDING THAT THE MATTER OF ASEAN/U.S. CONSULTATIONS IS ON THE AGENDA OF THE SECRETARIES GENERAL MEETING NOW OCCURRING IN MANILA AND THAT FORMAL DECISION ON THE SUBJECT MIGHT BE TAKEN DURING THE SCHEDULED SEPT. 4 MEETING OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE. ONCE THAT DECISION IS MADE, WE WOULD ASSUME PREPARATIONS FOR CONSULTATIONS COULD BE COMPLETED IN ABOUT TWO MONTHS.

THE U.S. WOULD WELCOME, AS A MEANS OF FACILITATING PREPARATIONS FOR CONSULTATIONS, THE DESIGNATION BY ASEAN OF A SINGLE PREFERRED POINT OF CONTACT. INFORMALLY ASEAN CAPITALS HAVE SUGGESTED USE OF THE STANDING COMMITTEE FOR THIS PURPOSE. THE U.S. IS HAPPY TO PROCEED ON THAT BASIS, IF AGREEABLE TO ASEAN MEMBERSHIP. UNQUOTE

3. DURING DISCUSSION BARRERA RECALLED THAT SOME WEEKS AGO ASEAN HAD EXTENDED AN INVITATION (ATTRIBUTED IN MAILA PRESS TO MALIK) TO INDOCHINA STATES TO JOIN ASEAN. ACCORDING TO A MEMBER BARRERA'S STAFF, NO RESPONSE HAS BEEN RECEIVED, AND ACCEPTANCE BY AN INDOCHINA STATE WOULD STILL REQUIRE A LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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VOTE OF ASEAN ON MEMBERSHIP. BARRERA WONDERED WHAT U.S. VIEW OF IMPLICATIONS SUCH MEMBERSHIPS FOR US/ASEAN TALKS MIGHT BE. IN OUTLINING POINTS PARA 4 REF B, ECON/COMMERCIAL COUNSELOR SAID, OF COURSE, THE MEMBERSHIP OF ASEAN WAS AN ASEAN AFFAIR. THE JUNE CONGRESSIONAL RESOLUTION PROHIBITING U.S. ASSISTANCE TO INDOCHINA STATES, HOWEVER, WAS AN INDICATION OF THE TYPE OF PROBLEMS THEIR PRESENCE WOULD POSE FOR ASEAN/U.S. CONSULTATIONS.

4. EMBASSY WILL REPORT ANY GOP REACTIONS, AND THE RESULTS
OF ABOVE-MENTIONED MEETINGS AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.
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